(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE **AND** INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The text of the draft for the proposed **PTA,** Rules of Origin, the Operational Certifications Procedures and Wish Lists **have been** discussed by the two sides. The Empowered Negotiating **Team is scheduled** to hold the next round of talks in New Delhi during February 23-25,2006.

FDI in small **and medium scale industries**

†317. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:
SHRIMATI KAMALA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals to increase the limit of Foreign Direct Investment in small and medium scale industries is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the percentage of investment limit fixed during the year 2005-06 and whether any proposal to increase the said limit in the ensuing years is under consideration; and

(c) the details of action so far/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (c)At present, there is no proposal under consideration to increase the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in the small-scale industries. There is, at present, no separate category industries classified as medium industry. The FDI policy is reviewed on a continuing basis to improve the investment climate in the country, consistent with the objective of accelerated growth of the economy.

Protest against import of gold

318 SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether gold is being imported;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.